

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GUAYAQ 00325 252238Z

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ACTION COA-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 L-02 EB-07 SCA-01 H-01 INR-07

DLOS-03 PRS-01 CG-00 DOTE-00 SCS-03 SSO-00 INRE-00

COME-00 /033 W

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FM AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3734

INFO AMEMBASSY QUITO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUAYAQUIL 0325

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS, PFOR, PLOS, EC, US

SUBJ: SEIZED U.S. TUNA VESSEL: A.K. STROM

1. AFTERNOON OF FEB 25 LAWYER ZAPATIER SHOWED CONGEN ORDER FROM DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FISHERIES ARROYO STATING THAT A.K. STROM CAPTAIN MUST BUY BACK ALL FISH ON BOARD VESSEL AT TIME OF CAPTURE. ZAPATIER STATES THAT HE TRYING TO REACH STARKIST REP GEORGE GLIGO IN MANTA TO DISCUSS THIS ORDER.

2. ORDER STATES THAT BECAUSE NO STORAGE SPACE AVAILABLE FOR 300 TONS ON BOARD STROM, CAPTAIN MUST BUY BACK CATCH AT LOCAL MARKET PRICE OF \$US320 PLUS 25 PERCENT OR TOTAL OF \$US400 PER TON.

3. COMMENT. IT APPEARS THAT GOE OFFICIALS WANT TO FORCE A BUY-BACK BECAUSE THEY ARE IN A QUANDRY CONCERNING EVENTUAL DISPOSAL OF UNLOADED FISH. STORAGE SPACE SHOULD SOON BE AVAILABLE IN MANTA BUT BECAUSE LOCAL MARKET UNABLE ABSORB CONFISCATED CATCH AND THAT OF NATIONAL TUNA FLEET, AUTHORITIES NOW WISH REDUCE AMOUNT OF CATCH OFF-LOADED BY SEEKING BUY-BACK. IMPASSE NOW AT HAND BECAUSE IN EARLIER CONVERSATIONS STARKIST REPS HAVE INDICATED THAT COMPANY HAS NO DESIRE TO PURCHASE FISH.
DEWITT

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